

ATHENA'S TABLET



Official Newsletter of the
Starfleet Command Ship
USS Athena

USS Athena
Was Presented
these Awards
at Starbase Indy

2025 Large Ship
1st Place

2025 Senior Officer
1st Place
Fleet Captain Kathy Peck

2025 Unit Recruiter
1st Place

2025 Individual Recruiter
2nd Place
Fleet Captain Kathy Peck

2025 Individual Recruiter
3rd Place
LTJG Pam Maness

2025 Communications
1st Place
Fleet Captain Kathy Peck

Fleet Commander's
Ovation Award
Petty Officer
Velma Farris

2025 Retention Award

Honors at Starbase Indy

By Commander Ryan Peck, First Officer

The annual meeting of Starfleet Command was once again held at Starbase Indy over Thanksgiving weekend. Members converged on the con to reacquaint with other Trekkies and to enjoy social time and meals together. Quite a few awards were presented to Athena members for their accomplishments and hard work!

(Starbase Indy coverage continues on page 14)



Seated- Fleet Captain Kathy Peck, Commanding Officer
Standing: L to R- Commander Ryan Peck, First Officer;
LTCDR Joseph Fugate, Chief of Communications;
Petty Officer Teena Godwin; LT Lois Jolly;
and Commander Phil Barnes, CO of Starbase 01.

Starfleet Command

Starfleet Command is an international non-profit group of Star Trek, Science Fiction and Space Enthusiasts and is one of the oldest Star Trek fan clubs in the world. Originally founded in the United States in 1974, the club is patterned after the Starfleet Command organization as seen in the Star Trek television series and movies.

SFC operates through units spread across the United States (Quadrant One), the United Kingdom and Europe (Quadrant Two) and Australia and Asia (Quadrant Three). Each Quadrant runs autonomously, with its own Admiralty Board and Support structure.

In Star Trek, IDIC refers to "Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations" and is a Vulcan philosophy. The phrase in Vulcan is Kol-Ut-Shan. Over the years, Star Trek fans have embraced the concept of IDIC as fans from varied and diverse cultures unite. IDIC has become an ideal worth striving for.

SFC and the USS Athena proudly support this philosophy as we believe our differences do make us stronger.



Starfleet Command

Scan Code to Join Starfleet Today

Disclaimer information ATHENA'S TABLET is published quarterly by members of the USS ATHENA and is a fan produced not-for-profit publication devoted to the world of Star Trek. It is not endorsed or associated with CBS, Paramount, Skydance, or other official entities. All opinions are those of the individual writers. We do not own the pictures that were sourced from episodes and/or internet pages.

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LT JG Pamela Maness
Mississippi Landing Party
Leader
Editor-In-Chief



Fleet Captain's Log

*By Fleet Captain Kathy Peck
Commanding Officer, USS Athena*

This year marks the 60th Anniversary of our beloved Star Trek. The phenomenon has come a long way and still inspires many to boldly go. The USS Athena is proud to be along for the ride. When someone recognizes my Star Trek mug at work, or when someone in a store flashes me the Vulcan salute upon recognizing my Star Trek t-shirt, I know the Trek culture is alive and well. Today, as I drink my Raktajino in my Klingon mug, play Captain's Log Solo Roleplaying Game, color in my TOS coloring book, watch Star Trek on streaming, and read my Star Trek novel, I reflect on how Star Trek has always been a large part of my life. In the past, I wasn't surrounded by people who encouraged me to pursue my passion. It is only now that I get to fully embrace my passion for Star Trek. I am grateful for my loving husband and first officer, Commander Ryan Peck, who co-founded the ship with me, and for the crew of the Athena, without whom I wouldn't be here. Star Trek has enabled us to come together in true camaraderie.

From The Bridge...

*By Commander Ryan Peck
First Officer, USS Athena*

Each year, more and more Star Trek fans are requesting to join the USS Athena. Quite a few are from areas outside of Middle Tennessee, where the ship was founded. How can we better facilitate the needs of these members? By forming Landing Parties, which are groups of members in a similar geographic location with a Leader that keeps close communication with the "bridge" in Nashville, Tennessee. This means that there will be more activities in Mississippi and Georgia in the coming months.

Excelsior!



Hailing Frequencies Open



Thank You for helping make Athena's Tablet a great Newsletter for all members to enjoy!

Athena Members, it has been a pleasure compiling all of your information into Athena's Tablet!

I welcome each and every member to our 2nd issue of Athena's Tablet. Our newsletter will be a quarterly publication. The Newsletter belongs to all members of the Athena. Please share something about Star Trek that means something to you. A convention experience, a childhood memory, or even tell us about your collection of Star Trek items. I look forward to our next issue.

LT JG Pamela Maness
Mississippi Landing Party Leader
Editor-In-Chief



Greetings from Starbase One



When I attended SBI in 2024 I felt I was missing out on some of the Sunday content because of the 5 hour drive to get back to Nashville. I later decided in 2025 that I would stay Sunday night and leave Monday morning. At some point they were asking for volunteers. I said I would be willing to help tear down the main stage set since I would be staying Sunday night anyway. Through exchanges, I eventually offered to come up by Wednesday

afternoon to help install the set. They told me it would be brought to the hotel in the morning and put up in the afternoon. Perfect!

Teena Godwin decided to be my travel companion and roomie. By the time we got there it was about 1PM. We checked in, dropped our stuff in the room, and went to the ballroom. The empty ballroom! It was us and the people in charge. I ended up going with Dave to the storage to load the set in the truck. It turns out they were switching storage facilities so everything had to get loaded! Eventually other people showed up to help. We got it all back to the hotel and loaded in.

In 2024 they were having issues with the bridge doors opening correctly. Being a set designer/builder, I inspected it and offered some advice to one of the staff. In 2025 I soon became the Rock Star of the group. I not only helped with the set, I also helped with lighting and a little AV. Teena started referring to me as "The Man, The Myth, The Legend". Again, I offered suggestions on how to make the doors operate smoother. But they kept it the way it was. Next year, maybe!

At the closing ceremony I was called to the stage. Once there,

they thanked me for all that I contributed and presented me with some gifts! It was very humbling and appreciated. After that it was back to the room to change out of uniform, grab my tools and head back to tear down ("strike") the set. Again I also helped lights and AV with their strike and load outs.

I think this will become a traditional part of my SBI experience! But next year I'm bringing more tools!

Please visit Starbase01 at our website
starbase01.net

Commander
Phil Barnes
CO:Starbase 01





**Recruit Bruce Burtner
Security**

The Legacy of Starlog Magazine

Star Log (the beginning of the beginning). My origin story- I was born many decades ago in the steel town of Gary, Indiana. First born of (and I'm not kidding here) Willard Homer. I was named after Robert the "Bruce" as my paternal grandmother was Scottish. For the first ten years of my life we lived in new Buffalo, Michigan, almost a harbor town that was on Lake Michigan. If you've heard of The Dunes, Michigan was noted for these. In 1972 we moved to Valparaiso /Malden, Indiana. The elementary through high school buildings are all located together. When I graduated 8 years later, the graduating class had 42 students. Very small township. My surroundings were corn fields in summer time. And soy beans & mint fields. The combines & tractors were abundant. In winter time, blizzards would literally create six feet of snow. My first jobs were lawn mowing, baling hay & detasseling hybrid corn. When you speak of the farm belt I was dead center. For those years you must remember there was no internet. Television was three networks & three ultra high frequency stations (UHF) that showed Japanese programming such as ULTRAMAN , SPECTRE MAN, SPACE GIANTS & other broadcasts from that era. WFLD TV would show a double feature of science fiction or horror movies on Saturday & Sunday afternoons. Star Trek reruns were shown on WGN channel 9 out of Chicago,

Illinois daily. The other show that was cannot miss TV for me was THE OUTER LIMITS. THANK GOD, the maker, for these distractions. The friends I had were literally all farmers & "children of the corn" before Stephen King wrote said book. This is not to denigrate my small group of farmer friends. They were the nicest, kindest people you

could know. But ! But we had zero in common. And I had to feign interest in their beer can collections or whatever muscle car they owned or were lusting after. I am 6' 6" tall and although I liked watching basketball, I was uncoordinated and could not play. Basketball is still interesting in an academic way, but I have zero skill set. All this background is to explain how STAR TREK (and in 1977 Star Wars) were truthfully the things that made my brain explode. Consider you're surrounded by fields of corn mostly.

(Some soybeans too). You live on three acres where chores & taking care of younger siblings dominate your life. Your mother belongs to a religious cult that celebrates no holidays or birthdays. The Bible is part of your life five times a week. Then in or around 1976 as I was purchasing my Mad magazine (published monthly), there it was. A log of some sort. The pictures of William Shatner & Leonard Nimoy ??? What in the hell is this !??? I've never done a drug



in my life. I never will because I have no interest. But the dopamine that flooded my brain when I saw STARLOG and Star Trek on its cover? I know the rush that drug addicts must endure. Finally. Finally !!! Something that gave me the ability to feel again. You think I'm exaggerating. I am not. I'm surrounded by three baby sisters who are of no interest to me. I have friends at school but am unable to speak of the things I love. They don't understand my nerd life & they never will. But watching Nimoy as Spock is quite honestly the best part of my days. A friend who shall remain nameless recently said to me that Star Trek is about a lifestyle for him. I didn't say this to him but can admit it here. Roddenberry with his creation of Star Trek saved me. The irritation of daily life for me in Malden, Indiana would be relieved only during those brief respites when the crew of USS ENTERPRISE were attending to another mission. Back to Starlog. I'm literally in nerd nirvana. This magazine is literally telling me about Star Trek & all the other new science fiction being created !??? And they also comment on older science fiction like FORBIDDEN PLANET & THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL??? And you can read this over and over again??? Little more expensive than a Mad magazine ? But worth it !!!

Zimmerman & Kerry O'Quinn ? Who are these fine fellows. I feel like I knew of Bjo Trimble because I knew of her work with the Star Trek letter writing campaign to NBC to save Star Trek from cancellation. David Gerrold I knew of course wrote the Trouble With Tribbles, & he was a science fiction author who was friends with Harlan Ellison.

Before Starlog, I did in fact have access to science fiction novels & short story anthologies. We

will mention many of those authors later. But my father being a voracious reader had passed the DNA to me.

Starlog in 1976-1977 was literally the only part of my day that brought the sun through the cloudy days. The creators of Starlog were the right guys at exactly the right time. This is the part in THE WIZARD OF OZ where we went from black & white to dazzling technicolor! You mean to tell me there are actual men out there who write articles about Star Trek & science fiction and monster movies !?? Blasphemy!! How did this happen ??? When the Hebrews escaped from Egypt & were starving in the desert for 40 years? God fed them manna from heaven. Starlog was manna for your brain.

Starlog was my guilty secret. Never mentioned it at school & never knew anyone who knew it existed. My science fiction / Trek craving was one I kept to myself. Again, who was I gonna tell? These rubes & bumpkins would not get my meanings. It was a lonely little place & no one would understand !!! Star Trek Andorians & Tellarites & Klingons & Romulans? If I mentioned these in year 1976-1977 I was met with a dull stare I'd equate to

being looked at by a gorilla. In year 2026 almost everyone knows Star Trek and its references are now considered pop culture. In 1966-1979 only a handful of people might laugh if I said "Beam me up Scotty". Again you try to explain the time before computers & internet & iPhones. It's like people have lost their long term memory. And many of the things we take for granted? Star Trek served as the template.

So I'm in junior high school and taking a typing class using electric typewriters & learning in ways



that would amaze you. When typing term papers you had to center your titles using pica (look it up) method of counting spaces to get the perfect term paper et cetera. Double spacing & all the things you now have computer programs automatically create, I did (and can still do) manually. I was editor of my school paper all four years. Anyway just about the time I graduated these skills were useless as Microsoft & others had made typing classes redundant. Wasted time. Again Star Trek and its almost prophetic vision was occurring right in front of me. My father was a visionary. In the computer magazines he purchased were advertisements for the IMSAI & ALTAIR computers. You purchased them and you soldered the circuit boards and created the first home computers. The way you loaded programming was by hiding music cassette tapes. You could purchase the first Star Trek game where you had a grid laid out on the green screen and you'd battle Klingon war ships. Incredible !!! 1976–1977. I'm 15 years old. Watching this unfold like a Star Trek episode. Indiana, which is flat & cold in winter & pedestrian, is not quite as bad as it once was. And even though I did have a mundane school life with friends I couldn't relate to, I had my Star

Trek & my Starlog & (I'll admit it here) toys! Mego Star Trek toys. More on that in the next portion of this material. The thing I remember most was what I call Star Trek tease. I would discuss this with my father. Star Trek played 5 nights a week in syndication. Roddenberry was alive. We knew he had done a TV movie called THE QUESTOR TAPES among some other productions Why not make more Star Trek!?!? It's obviously popular in syndication. And Starlog alluded to this fact as well. This is 1976–1977. Obviously a little film called Star Wars created interest in science fiction again. But, we want more Star Trek!!! (Spoiler alert-- you know what happens in 1979!). Seriously though, what was taking so long? I think Roddenberry was probably being a pain in the @\$\$\$. Still we needed new Star Trek. Starlog also bemoaned this fact. Soon enough, soon enough.

*To Be Continued in
the Next Issue of
Athena's Tablet*



USS Athena Officers

Fleet Captain
Kathy Peck
Commanding Officer

Commander Ryan Peck
First Officer

LT CDR Joseph Fugate
Chief of Communications

LT CDR Jen Foley
North Georgia Landing Party
Leader

LT Lois Jolly
Science Officer

LT JG Stephen Willis
Operations Officer

LT JG Pamela Maness
Mississippi Landing Party
Leader

LT JG Alan Hounshell
Chief Medical Officer

LT JG Buckner "B.F." Melton
South Georgia Landing Party
Leader

Ensign Eddie Hines
Communications Officer

Ensign Rachael Mahan
Communications Officer

Ensign Daynise Joseph
Communications Officer

Ensign Jeremy Manning
Quartermaster

USS ATHENA OFFICERS ACCEPT ADVANCED RESPONSIBILITIES



Pam Maness

Mississippi
Landing Party
Leader



Jen Foley

North Georgia
Landing Party
Leader



Buck Melton

South Georgia
Landing Party
Leader



Alan Hounshell

Chief Medical
Officer



Jeremy Manning

Quartermaster

Gil Gerard Tribute



Recruit Derek Martin
Operations

On December 27, 2025 the Horror, Suspense, SciFi & Fantasy Friends Meetup and USS Athena got together at my home to honor Gil Gerard, who passed

away on December 16, 2025. He is most famous for starring in Buck Rogers in the 25th Century – both the 1979 film and two-season television series. Our evening started with a viewing of the Buck Rogers film. While the movie was received favorably, guests enjoyed making fun of some of the special effects and the “erotic dream sequence” opening that showcased Erin Gray (Colonel Wilma Deering) and other actresses.

For those who had watched the series, we agreed that the show declined in the second season with Thom Christopher’s performance as Hawk being a bright spot. I shared my memories from Gil Gerard’s 2003 panel at DragonCon at 10:00 a.m. on a Sunday morning. Gerard told the audience that it said a lot about the lasting impact of Buck Rogers considering the good crowd size after attendees had been up late partying the night before. Gerard said that he told the producers that there should be more female pilots in the series as this was taking place in the future. Gerard also broke out laughing while telling the audience how the props department told him to take any ship models and other items that he liked when the show ended.

Gerard passed up the chance to take many items realizing later how much money the ship models were now worth.

We hope that you can join us at a future screening event as we honor those actors and

others associated with Star Trek who’ve passed or revisit special episodes and films.



Athena's Christmas Party 2025

LTJG Pam Maness
Mississippi Landing Party
Leader

'Tis the season for celebrations and fellowship. The holidays are a special time for Athena members to gather.

This year our host graciously opened his home, Commander Phil Barnes CO: Starbase 01.

The Mississippi Landing Party travels from Northeast Mississippi to the Nashville area for the annual party each year when we can. This year we took 6 members.

The potluck food was great, various desserts, vegetables, casseroles, and a nice pair of London Broil beef steaks were on the menu.

Everyone enjoyed the tour of Phil's Star Trek room and his very impressive tree with all manner of Star Trek Ornaments, an extensive collection years in the making. The newest acquisition in the collection: the Borg Cube and TOS figures on light up bases.

This year there was *The White Mugato* gift exchange game. Members had loads of fun picking a gift and hoping no one would "Mugato" their gift. Fortunately the limit was three times you could "Mugato". All the gifts were of a science fiction or Star Trek theme; a TOS Trek Coloring Book, TOS Trek Uno Cards, Trek and Athena Tumblers were very popular. A Star Trek Encyclopedia, Starbase 01 Coffee Mug, and a vintage Gold Key Star Trek Comic Book were some of the other gifts presented.

The White Mugato gifts were not the only gifts at the party. Several gifts of toys and non-perishable food stuffs were also collected. This collection of gifts were donated to Operation Stand Down, an organization that has served countless veterans and their families, one of the charities the Athena supports each year.

I received a special gift this year. I was presented a promotion as the Mississippi Landing Party Leader. It is my honor to serve and keep our landing party in communication with our main ship the USS Athena. Great fun and fellowship are always looked forward to when the Mississippi Landing Party have the opportunity to travel together to meet our shipmates on the Athena. We look forward to another great gathering at next years holiday event.

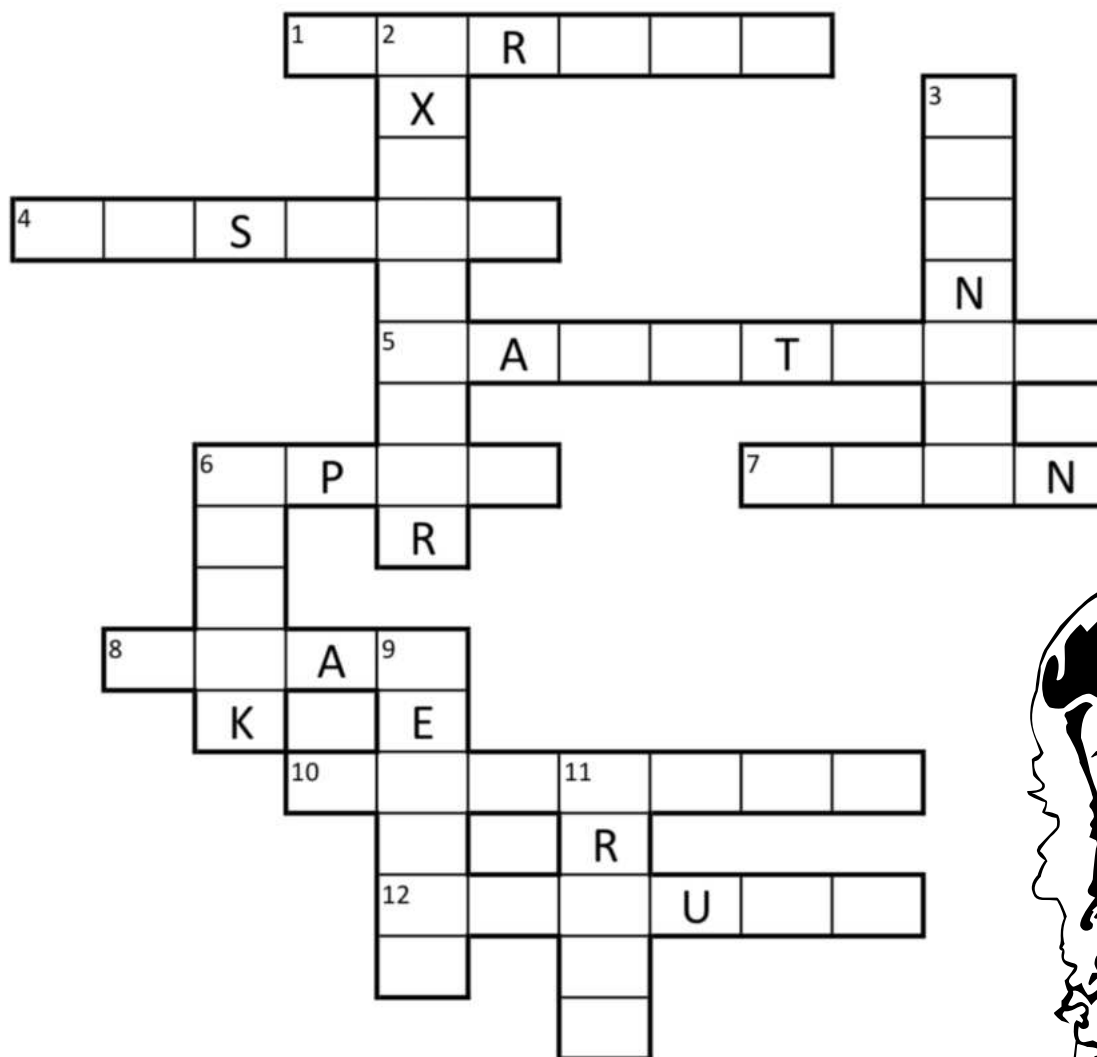


STAR TREK

CROSSWORD



LTCDR Joseph
Fugate
Chief of
Communications



- 1a - SECTOR 001, THE ____ SYSTEM
 2d - NCC-2000, COMMANDED BY HIKARU SULU
 3d - WARRIOR RACE FROM THE PLANET QO'NOS
 4a - ACTING ENSIGN ____ CRUSHER
 5a - FIRST STARFLEET SHIP TO ENCOUNTER THE WHALE PROBE IN THE FILM "THE VOYAGE HOME"
 6a - DATA'S CAT
 6d - SPOCK'S FATHER
 7a - NAME OF THE STATION WHERE THE PILOT SITS ON A BRIDGE
 8a - McCOY: "HE'S_____, JIM."
 9d - COUNSELOR ____ TROI
 10a - KIRA NERYS' RACE
 11d - THE CURVED PATH TAKEN BY AN OBJECT
 AROUND A SUN OR PLANET
 12a - A CLOUD OF INTERSTELLAR GASES OR DUST

ANS: 1a-TERRAN, 2d-EXCELSIOR,
 3d-KLINGON, 4a-WESLEY,
 5a-SARATOGA, 6a-SPOT, 6d-SAREK,
 7a-CONN, 8a-DEAD, 9d-DEANNA,
 10a-BAJORAN, 11d-ORBIT, 12a-NEBULA

LTJG Pam Maness
Mississippi Landing Party
Leader

[illegible]

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Athena Supports Veterans Annually

Each year, members of the USS Athena gather together for a Christmas meal and at that same time collect toys and non-perishable food items for Operation Stand Down, an organization that has served countless veterans and their families. In the past, OSD has helped chronically homeless veterans while also helping them find meaningful employment, empowering them to be successful, and giving them a hand up, not a hand out. "Let's hope we get as much support this year!"



Mississippi Landing Party Reports

Members of the Mississippi Landing Party have donated to The Sanctuary Hospice House Organization.

Sanctuary seeks to provide compassionate care to the dying and those they love in response to God's call that we serve one another.

Sanctuary Hospice is a certified 501c3 nonprofit. Opportunities for support include The Sanctuary Hospice Foundation, General Donations/Memorials, The Sanctuary Village Shoppe, and various fundraisers.



Loretta Tobias, Don Tobias, Karen Burcham, Loretta Augustine, Laura Curtis, and Pam Maness.
Members of Mississippi Landing Party.



IDIC Dinner

At Meet Noodles

In February, the USS Athena held our second IDIC Dinner. Taiwan style rice noodles, wheat noodles, sweet potato noodles, and more were the focus of this restaurant: MEET NOODLES! The various styles of noodles combined with several proteins, vegetables, and seasonings helped Athena members appreciate how these dishes are considered comfort food for an entire nation. Jason Chuang, who has visited Taiwan, told us stories about the time he spent there visiting his family. To say the portions were filling was an understatement. Everyone who braved the cold to attend this event left warm and satisfied.

IDIC stands for "Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations". It is a Vulcan philosophy that recognizes the ways our differences can combine to create meaning and beauty. The symbol for IDIC was introduced in the TOS episode "Is There In Truth No Beauty?" Originally, the symbol was created to be a merchandising prop, but the fans have taken it to mean so much more. It has come to be used to represent Vulcans and a guiding principle to value and accept different perspectives. Contrary to popular belief among fans, the exact phrase "Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations" wasn't stated onscreen until the Star Trek animated episode "The Infinite Vulcan".



**Fleet Captain
Kathy Peck
Commanding Officer**



Thanks to the skillful artistry of Athena's Quartermaster Jeremy Manning, all who attended the IDIC Dinner received an IDIC badge to wear at this and future IDIC Dinners that we enjoy together. Instead of the original silver color, our badges were Athena's red and blue colors of our logo.

Star Trek actors who have Taiwanese ancestry include Michelle Krusiec who played the teenage, feral version of Molly O'Brien in Deep Space Nine, and Pay Chen who portrayed a Starfleet Psychiatrist in Discovery.

Gratitude at Starbase Indy



**Fleet Captain
Kathy Peck
Commanding Officer**

Starbase Indy, a fan-run Star Trek and STEM convention, was November 28-30, 2025 in Indianapolis, IN. With nine from the USS Athena, plus a plethora of other Starfleet Command members, we all enjoyed the fun and merriment of the con while making new friends. Our members



Joe and Lisa Waltz tied the knot in a Star Trek wedding ceremony. Everyone at the con came to see it! Her T'Pring wedding dress and his Starfleet white dress uniform were the spiffiest. Fleet Captain Kathy Peck and Commander Ryan Peck held a Bajoran Gratitude Festival that let everyone burn their troubles away. Later, the Pecks presented a panel on what it was like to be a Star Trek fan in the year 2000. No computer glitches, just the rise of Seven of Nine! We came away with eight awards at the Starfleet Command Awards Ceremony. The main stage had a TNG bridge set, which Starbase 01 Commander Phil Barnes help put together. The set was awesome and great for pictures. We also enjoyed karaoke, a cosplay contest, vendors, and fan tables. The whole event was exciting, and yet relaxing, as we all had time to sit back and chat with friends. It made us all see that we are part of a great community with Star Trek and Starfleet Command!



My Starbase Indy

I really enjoyed the 1 day I could come. Had some issues with my RV & the weather was intense Saturday night. The staff & attendees were very caring. Unfortunately, I missed the Starfleet Command meeting & Friday night activity but heard it was a very good time. USS Athena apparently cleaned up in awards. Threepio's concert was delightful. Vendors were varied. Lots of authors. I purchased a few books & fudge, and a few other items. The silent auction had SW, Babylon 5, & ST. I was able to go to the podcast of John Huston.



**Recruit Kat Stewart
Medical**



Sweet Starbase Indy

The word that keeps coming to mind is "sweet". It is a small enough convention that I had a lot of opportunity and time to really talk, listen, and goof around with my fellow con-goers. That in itself was sweet. There was a Bajoran gratitude festival one night, sweet. There as an awesome charcuterie board and I got to speak with Norman who is one of the chefs, sweet. And of course Shipmates Lisa and Joe got married on the bridge, super sweet. The Starfleet meeting made me feel like I was a part of something with a grand purpose. At the end of the weekend I realized that Trek and cosplay are fun, but being able to give and receive others' joy, love and acceptance is a grand purpose. Oh so sweet.



**LT Lois Jolly
Science Office**



Recruit
Chuck Schlemm
Engineering

Barnard Seyfert Astronomical Society

USS Athena crew members Kathy and Ryan Peck and Chuck Schlemm attended the Barnard Seyfert Astronomical Society club meeting at Vanderbilt's Dyer Observatory October 16, 2025.

We are all members of BSAS.

The speaker was Dr. Shane Larson, Professor and Director of Integrated Engineering and Applied Science Projects at Clarkson University. He talked about many things including the vastness of the universe down to beyond microscopic levels. One comparison was, there are more stars in the universe than grains of sand on all the beaches of the world, and there are more molecules of water in you than all the stars in the universe!

Our telescopes are observing farther in distance and time than ever before. The James Webb Telescope has detected galaxies more than 13 billion years in the past, closer to the big bang than ever before. We have instruments that are measuring actual waves of gravity passing earth from distant binary black holes. Astronomers have confirmed more than 5,000 planets around nearby stars, many of which are earth sized and in orbits where water might exist. The discovery of life elsewhere in the universe may be just around the corner. The discoveries to come will be amazing.

He talked about how science has learned how stars fuse hydrogen into helium and then into oxygen and finally to iron and then some go nova creating many more elements and spread those atoms back into the universe to be recycled and recombined into new stars and planets and water and life! I found his quote, "You are the cosmos made manifest. We're all made of the same star stuff" interesting.

President Tom Beckermann did club business announcements and talked about recent and future star parties.

The BSAS monthly meetings and star parties are open to the public and free to attend with a variety of speakers. Come join us at future events. Checkout BSASnashville.com for more information

Below are two slides he presented and Athena crew with the professor





STARFLEET MEDICAL

Ways to Decrease Stress For Comic Cons/Conventions



LT JG Alan Hounshell
Chief Medical Officer

Repeat after me, "Stress is normal," or for you Klingons out there, "Moth Stress." Regardless of the type of Cons/Conventions (referred to moving forward as "event(s)") you attend, you can make things less stressful by preparing in advance and pacing yourself. Below are some things you can do to reduce your stress:



▲ **Financial:** accordingly by saving money ahead of time to avoid a significant expense, since events are typically not cheap. This includes making a budget and saving to pay for those photo ops, autographs, VIP sessions, cool toys, comics, lodging, parking, meals, flights, event tickets, etc.

▲ **Ticket, Lodging, and Parking:** Book your tickets, lodging, and parking (if applicable) in advance to save time and money and ensure you get what you want.

▲ **Packing Lists:** Make a list of what you will need to pack for the trip, and double-check it a few days before the trip to ensure you have everything. Pack all hygiene basics, electronics (e.g., headphones and phone chargers), costume/cosplay attire, medications/medical equipment, and comfortable clothes you'll need. It is strongly recommended to wear comfortable, sensible clothing and good walking shoes when possible.

▲ **Organizing Your Schedule:** Attend what is reasonable and logical. There are a lot of events to attend, but the reality is that you cannot possibly go to all of them. Research and prioritize the events (e.g., panels, Q&A) and vendors you are interested in, and pace yourself by allowing time for meals and rest in the schedule. It is essential to check the event's official app or website regularly for any updates.

▲ **Stay Healthy and Clean:** 1) Know your physical and mental limits of what you can handle, taking breaks when tired, or giving yourself a timeout when feeling anxious. If you are a person with mobility issues, request assistance and utilize services offered ahead of time; 2) Avoid eating things that will make you miserable, especially if you have allergies or food disagreements; 3) Hydrate with water/sports drinks (avoiding items high in caffeine and sugar); 4) Respect yourself and others by maintaining good hygiene. Bathing and keeping body odor at a minimum make for a more pleasant experience for fellow patrons and celebrities; and 5) Take a proactive stance to prevent the spread of illnesses by regular handwashing or hand sanitizers. Just imagine how many people shake a celebrity's hand before you get to them. It is also strongly suggested that patrons wear a mask if they are sick or have a medical condition that could easily affect their or another person's immune system.

▲ **Know the rules:** Learn and follow the rules at all events, even if some are simple courtesies (e.g., permission before taking pictures of a stranger in costume).



After the event ends, rest, process the positive experiences, steer clear of the negatives, and share memories with old and new event friends.

Georgia Trek Fans Unite!

LT JG Buckner "B.F." Melton
South Georgia
Landing Party Leader



To kick off the new year, the South Georgia landing party (which encompasses both Middle and South Georgia, essentially anything south of Atlanta) had a two-day outing. On January 2nd, we were in Macon, which has more than a few architectural gems, but none finer than the Johnston-Felton-Hay House (or simply the Hay House, as locals call it). This palatial structure, completed in the 1850s, boasted central heating, rudimentary air conditioning, intercom (via speaking tubes), and hot/cold running water at the time. Consisting of 18,000 square feet and seven floors (including a two-story cupola), sporting a large two-fireplace ballroom and an even larger art gallery, and stuffed with period art, the Italian Renaissance Revival-style home must be seen to be believed. The landing party started in the basement and spent more than an hour working its way to the top of the cupola, which offered a stunning view of the surrounding area.

Afterward we continued our ongoing mission to explore every Indian restaurant in Middle Georgia, this time dining at Cook-in-Pot a few blocks from the Hay House.

Sunday we were in Atlanta/Decatur, and the bill of fare was Mexican, specifically the Raging Burrito. The reason for this visit, though, wasn't specifically for the food but instead a pilgrimage to Decatur High School. Once upon a time a future actor named DeForest Kelley attended what was then known as Decatur Boys High School, and as a distinguished alumnus he's honored with a memorial stone bench. One of many such benches at the school, they sport a picture of him as well as an engraving of a certain starship (no bloody A, B, C, or D!) and a few other items of interest.

The New Year's sojourn into the strange new world of Middle Georgia has been going on for a few years and is expected to become more than a five-year mission. Potential future stops include the Ocmulgee Indian Mounds, St. Joseph Catholic Church (which rivals the Hay House for magnificence), the Cannonball House ("General Sherman missed us, but you don't have to!"), and the Grand Opera House, a stunning 150 year old theater.

Make your plans now to join us next year.





Visiting the USS Athena Academy!



**Recruit April Klein
Engineering**

On January 17th, the crew of Athena gathered for the viewing party of the new Starfleet Academy with the first 2 episodes. After we ate and visited, introducing a new crew member, Aron, and general discussion of everything Geekie, we settled down to watch the latest series of the Star Trek universe. Everyone had a good response to this new storyline and there was a lot to talk about.

Everyone agreed this new series was staying fairly true to the Star Trek we know and love, with strong references to past shows throughout. Bringing in past cast is not the only tie made, though seeing "the Doctor" back was spot on. There were promising new characters with what I have coined as the new "hippie" Chancellor portrayed beautifully by Holly Hunter; Caleb Mir, the troubled new cadet; the first hologram cadet named Sam (my personal favorite); Lura Thok, with Klingon and Jem'Hadar blood as first officer; and a host of cadets making up the Academy on wheels, so to speak. Though there was a campus setup in San Francisco, they have set the USS Athena to be the mobile campus.

The first two episodes just had me hungry for more in not only storyline but writing. The action scenes were not overwhelming but weaved masterfully into an engaging dialog that was not heavy handed in technical jargon but had plenty of punchie lines to keep the audience laughing or nostalgic of past shows. Well done so far, Star Trek. The crew of USS Athena can hold their heads high on being named the same as this new ship in the Federation.





Specialist
Andrea Barron
Communications

"The Journey of Yue Li"

(Look for continuing Star Trek saga in next issue of Athena's Tablet)

Someday i'm going
back to the place
I've never been to in
this lifetime
A vast sea of stars
summoning
A name i've forgotten
The war drums are
beating out on
Tianshan
I don't expect to
escape the clashing
swords swelling
The valley of eternal
night
From where then
comes this memory of
stars i've never seen

'The journey of Yue Li 月李'

天山

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Fin



Recruit
Loretta Tobias
Medical

Members of the Mississippi Landing Party attended Corinth ComicCon Saturday, November 8, 2025.

A few days before Comic Con, Pam Maness and myself designed and made banners, coasters, and photo albums for Comic Con. On the day of Comic Con we rose early, gathering all our Star Trek items and headed to Crossroads Area in Corinth MS to set up our table with pride. We set up books, our photo album with adventures we had been on, previous contests we have won, and even a movie we had played extras in. We hung our banner on our table. We even had Star Trek Barbie and Ken. We hung Pam's 50-year Starfleet Command blanket on the wall and now we were ready to meet and greet our fans. We had packet set of 4 coasters to hand out to those who sign up on the spot to become new members. Pam and I greeted people posing for photos like the stars we are, passing out pamphlets like they were golden passes to the next Star Trek movie itself. By noon we had already signed up two new members with lot of promises of more to sign up at home or later. Don Tobias brought us some lunch and helped man the table. Loretta Augustine came in shortly after.



The Brochure

of the Mississippi Landing Party

Now it was time for the costume contest. Pam, Don and I won the very first Comic Con contest in the group category 5 years before, so we decided to give it another go. There were lots of contestants and many good costumes. All contestants were interviewed and asked about their costumes and how they were made. What inspired them. After what seemed to be hours, decisions were made and once again, we took 1st place. Hooray for the Mississippi Landing Party. When we got back to the table Loretta Augustine had signed up another new member. That brought our total up to 3. Tara Grant Chamley, Gregory Bullard and Taylor Kelly. We are so happy to welcome these new members to our little but growing group known as the Mississippi Landing Party.

We got to see so many great costumes from our table by the front door. The Joker, mad hatter, lots of anime I can't even begin to name, but we have pictures. Our table was across from the Ghost Busters table which was very cool. They had all kinds of gadgets from the movie, and all suited up to go. If there was a ghost in those halls, they would have caught it for sure.

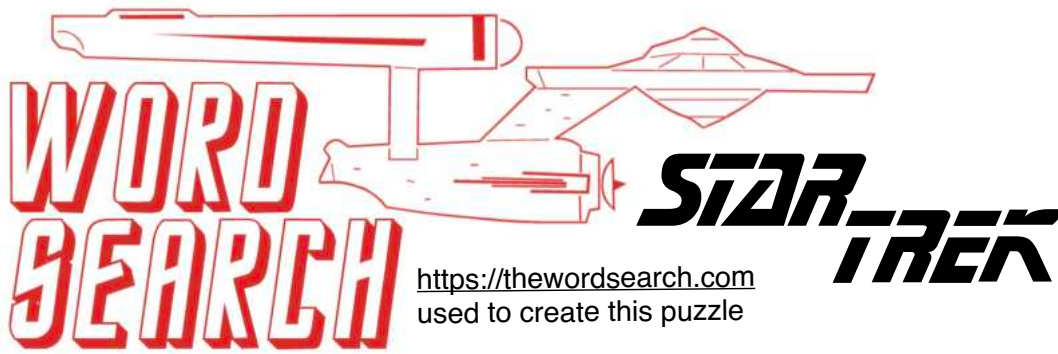
Next to us of course, was Star Wars, but they were friendly sort so I couldn't be too upset, plus they gave us stickers. Who doesn't like stickers. They stuck to their table and we, well we walked and talked to anyone who would talk, which wasn't hard since we were all so love-able





and photogenic. Time seemed to fly by and what seemed like no time--it was time to pack up. We tried to pack up a little early so we could see what the merchants were selling but it was no go. Guess they had the same idea too. When the Corinth Comic Con comes around next year I hope to see you there. We had a blast talking to people and posing for pictures like the stars we are. Hope you enjoyed my recap of 2025 Corinth Comic Con.





Recruit
Karen Burcham
Communications

Spock's famous quote is: "Logic clearly dictates that the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few." Uttered in Star Trek II: The Wrath Of Khan (1982). Spock sacrifices himself to save the USS Enterprise and its crew, explaining his choice to Captain Kirk, who added "Or the one."

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HIMSELF
KIRK
SPOCK
CREW

DECK 8 FOOD AND BEVERAGE PREPARATION FACILITIES



Recruit
Joe Waltz
Science



Bajoran Hasperat

A simple versatile but flavorful dish that just like Star Trek says, has infinite diversity with infinite combinations!

You can add or take out any ingredients you like!
Start with:

Flour Tortillas
Softened Cream Cheese
Pickled Veggies
(Banana Peppers, Jalapeño's, Habanero, Kimchi, or even Turnips)
Sriracha, Hot Sauce or Chili Paste
Thin cut Bell Peppers and thin cut Cucumbers
Shredded Cheese is optional
and any cheese you like will work!
Chopped Onion and Baby Spinach Leaves or Lettuce

Take your cream cheese and hot sauce of choice and mix together.
Mix together whatever veggies and peppers you choose to use.
Heat up the tortillas so they are pliable and easy to use.
Spread the cream cheese mixture over all of the tortillas
and then add the veggie pepper
mix on top along with the lettuce or baby spinach.
Roll and tuck the edges of each tortilla.
Finally heat up a pan.
Placed the rolled tortillas in the hot pan and
heat the outside until golden brown and delicious!



USS Athena Upcoming Events

**April 11: Make-A-Difference
Charity Event
at Inglewood Library**

**April 17-19: Huntsville Comic
and Pop Culture Expo**

**April 24: Way Late Play Date
at Adventure Science Center
Celebrating
60th Anniversary of Star Trek**

**April 24-26: Stellar Fest
Atlanta Georgia**

**May 2: Free Comic Book Day
The Great Escape Nashville**

Some members of the
USS Athena are also
involved in these groups



StarPodTrek is the exciting podcast produced by Nyr and Kavura. Each episode delves into past issues of Starlog magazine and discusses pertinent information of that time period. Tune into the show wherever you listen to podcasts!

<https://starpodlogpodcast.blogspot.com/>



Middle Tennessee Space Society is the local chapter of the National Space Society and is dedicated to the creation of a spacefaring civilization. NSS is an independent nonprofit, nonpartisan educational membership organization



Star Trek: Nature's Hunger is a fan film series that is written and produced by Jose Cepeda. Follow the adventure on YouTube!

<https://youtube.com/@natureshunger>



Adventure Science Center For 80 years, Adventure Science Center has been bringing science to life for students, teachers, and families in Middle Tennessee and across the U.S.

<https://www.adventuresci.org/>



Barnard Astronomical Society of Chattanooga (BAS) Is a 501c3 nonprofit organization based out of Chattanooga, and our goal is to further education and the love of astronomy in our community.

<https://www.barnardastronomy.org/>



The Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society Experienced members of BSAS or guest speakers talk about some aspect of astronomy or observing in Nashville once a month. Often the public star parties are centered around a special astronomical event, such as a lunar eclipse, or meteor showers.

<https://www.bsasnashville.com/>